AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended): A retardation film, showing birefringence, wherein

the said retardation film comprises a non–liquid crystal polymer,

the non–liquid crystal polymer is aligned,

alignment of the non–liquid crystal polymer on at least one of surfaces of the retardation film is different from alignment of the non–liquid crystal polymer on an inside of the retardation film, and

the surface having the alignment that is different from the alignment on the inside functions as an alignment surface,

the non-liquid crystal polymer contains at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyimide, polyester, polyetherketone, polyaryletherketone, polyamideimide and polyesterimide, and

the non-liquid crystal polymer is a polymer that is coated to a base and, when dried, generates anisotropy.

2. (Original): The retardation film according to claim 1, having a function as an alignment film.

3. (Previously Presented): The retardation film according to claim 1, wherein optical characteristics show any of formulae (I) to (III) below,

$nx = ny > nz$ (I)

$nx > ny > nz$ (II)

$nx > ny = nz$ (III),

where, in the above formulae (I) to (III), nx, ny and nz respectively indicate refractive

indices in an X–axis direction, a Y–axis direction and a Z–axis direction in the retardation film,

the X–axis corresponds to an axial direction exhibiting a maximum refractive index within a

plane of the retardation film, the Y–axis corresponds to an axial direction perpendicular to the X–

axis within the plane, and the Z–axis corresponds to a thickness direction perpendicular to the X–

axis and the Y–axis.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented): The retardation film according to claim 1, wherein the

non–liquid crystal polymer is a polymer of a liquid crystal compound.

6. (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing a retardation film, comprising a step of

forming an alignment surface by irradiating at least one of surfaces of a polymer film showing

birefringence with polarized light so as to change an alignment direction of only the surface of

the polymer film that is irradiated with the polarized light.

7. (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method according to claim 6, wherein the polarized

light is linearly polarized light.

8. (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method according to claim 6, wherein the polarized light is polarized ultraviolet light.

9. (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method according to claim 8, wherein the polarized light is polarized ultraviolet light of 200 nm to 400 nm.

10. (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method according to claim 6, wherein the polymer film is a film containing a non–liquid crystal polymer.

11. (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method according to claim 10, wherein the non–liquid crystal polymer is at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyimide, polyester, polyetherketone, polyaryletherketone, polyamideimide and polyesterimide.

12. (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method according to claim 10, further comprising a manufacturing step for manufacturing the polymer film showing the birefringence by applying a coating solution containing the non–liquid crystal polymer on a surface of a base.

13. (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method according to claim 12, wherein the

obtained polymer film showing the birefringence is further stretched or shrunk in the

manufacturing step.

14. (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method according to claim 13, wherein, in the

polymer film showing the birefringence before being stretched or shrunk, a birefringent index

(Δn) shown by a formula below is 0.01 or more,

    $\Delta n = nx - nz$,

where, in the above formula, nx and nz respectively indicate refractive indices in an X–

axis direction and a Z–axis direction in the polymer film, and the X–axis direction corresponds to

an axial direction exhibiting a maximum refractive index within a plane of the polymer film, and

the Z–axis corresponds to a thickness direction perpendicular to the X–axis.

15. (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method according to claim 10, wherein the

non–liquid crystal polymer is a polymer containing a polymer of a liquid crystal compound.

16. (Withdrawn): The manufacturing method according to claim 15, further comprising

a manufacturing step for manufacturing the polymer film showing the birefringence,

    the manufacturing step comprising:

    applying a coating solution containing the liquid crystal compound on a surface of an

alignment film so as to form a coating film;

    subjecting the coating film to a heat treatment so as to align the liquid crystal compound

according to an alignment direction of the alignment film; and then

polymerizing the liquid crystal compound.

17. (Previously Presented): A retardation film manufactured by the manufacturing

method according to claim 6.

18. (Original): The retardation film according to claim 17, having a function as an

alignment film.

19. (Withdrawn): A method for manufacturing a laminated retardation film in which two

or more birefringent layers with different alignment directions are laminated,

the method comprising:

preparing the retardation film according to claim 1;

applying a coating solution containing a liquid crystal compound on the alignment surface

of the retardation film so as to form a coating film; and

subjecting the coating film to a heat treatment for aligning the liquid crystal compound

according to an alignment direction of the alignment surface so as to form a birefringent layer.

20. (Withdrawn): A laminated retardation film manufactured by the manufacturing

method according to claim 19.

21. (Previously Presented): An optical film comprising the retardation film according to claim 1.

22. (Original): The optical film according to claim 21, further comprising a polarizing element.

23. (Withdrawn): An image display apparatus, comprising the optical film according to claim 21.

24. (Original): The image display apparatus according to claim 23, which is a liquid crystal display.

25. (Original): The image display apparatus according to claim 24, which is at least one self–light–emitting image display selected from the group consisting of an electroluminescence (EL) display, an organic electroluminescence (EL) display, a plasma display (PD) and a FED (Field Emission Display).

26. (Withdrawn): An optical film comprising the laminated retardation film according to claim 20.

27. (Withdrawn): The optical film according to claim 26, further comprising a polarizing

element.

28. (Withdrawn): An image display apparatus, comprising the optical film according to claim 26.

29. (Withdrawn): The image display apparatus according to claim 28, which is a liquid crystal display.

30. (Withdrawn): The image display apparatus according to claim 29, which is at least one self–light–emitting image display selected from the group consisting of an electroluminescence (EL) display, an organic electroluminescence (EL) display, a plasma display (PD) and a FED (Field Emission Display).

31. (New): The retardation film according to claim 1, wherein the at least one of the surfaces of the retardation film is formed by irradiation with ultraviolet light.